financial health of SEBs has necessitated the need for reform. A consensus was reached in the Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001 on the need to depoliticise power sector reforms and speed up their implementation. The Government of India has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with twenty one States. The MOUs are a joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. The State Government commitment in these MOUs include setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, 100% metering of 11 KV feeders and all consumers, energy audit, reduction of technical and commercial losses, achievement of commercial viability in distribution etc. Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from Central Generating Stations and financial assistance for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernisation of thermal and hydel power plants. 12 State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have passed tariff order which reflect a trend towards tariff rationalisation.

Gram Bank Scheme

2597. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basic objectives of "Gram Bank" scheme;

(b) what is the total number of villages, State-wise covered under this scheme;

(c) what is the total investment; and

(d) the State's share in it?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development do not have any Scheme called as "Gram Bank" Scheme.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Review of anti-poverty programmes in Rajasthan

2598. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: